



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

For Immediate Release: TO PMs OF THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1943.

An unusual quantity of fresh and salted lake herring will enter the markets during November because the lack of adequate freezer space will interfere with the customary freezing and storing of these fish, it was reported today to Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes.

In the Lake Superior region, where several million pounds of lake herring are caught within a period of a few weeks, a large share of the catch is frozen under normal conditions, but this year freezers in the Middle West are so nearly filled to capacity that little space is expected to be available for the herring, according to John Van Costen, Area Coordinator for the Great Lakes.

An effort is being made to contact suppliers of wooden kegs from whom the fishermen may obtain an adequate supply of containers for salting the herring, Dr. Van Costen reported.

Present catches of lake herring amount to about 22,000,000 pounds annually, the largest yield of any single species of Great Lakes fish. Lake herring are related to the well known whitefish, but are considerably smaller and sell at a lower price.

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